Sampark Kranti Express from Madurai

1988. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to convert the Sampark Kranti Express from Madurai into Daily Express, in view of overwhelming response therefor; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) At present, there is no such proposal.

(b) Not commercially justified.

Incidence of thefts in Railway yards

1989. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidence of thefts has gone up in Railway yards during the last two years;

(b) if so, the value of goods pilfered, year-wise and zone-wise;

(c) the persons held responsible and the action taken against them; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to check the theft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Incidence of thefts/pilferage in Railway yards has not gone up during the last two years (2003-2004) in comparison to the previous year (2002).

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Facilities to passengers

1990. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent for providing facilities to the passengers by the Railways during the year 2004-05 togetherwith the amount likely to be spent during 2005-06;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the facilities to the second class passengers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Allotment/Expenditure on facilities/amenities to passengers at railway stations are charged to plan head "Passenger Amenities" mainly. The budget allotment for the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 under this plan head is Rs. 215.00 crore and Rs. 222.15 crore respectively. Amount likely to be spent during 2004-05 is Rs. 221.67 crore.

(b) and (c) Amenities in passenger coaches are provided as per laid down norms of Railways. Constant efforts are made to make all coaches including Second Class coaches more passenger friendly. Efforts are being made to develop Second Class variants of coaches using imported technology from LHB/Germany.

Number of workers in ICF

1991. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to cut down the number of workers in Integral Coach Factory; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Private sector partnership in Railways

1992. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study on private sector's partnership in Railways;